



# C-O-N-N-E-C-T-I-O-N-S

**Newsletter of the Lower Hutt Memorial RSA — December 2020**

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PO Box 38-905 Wellington Mail Centre, Lower Hutt

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*The Lower Hutt Memorial RSA meets on Friday from 4:30pm to 6:30pm  
mezzanine floor of the Members Lounge at the Petone Workingmen's club 47 Udy Street, Petone*

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## ***LHM RSA PRESIDENTS XMAS MESSAGE 2020 — Jim Hogg***

Seasons Greetings to all.

Well time has certainly flown by since our AGM and Elections in September. I would like to thank all members who took the time and effort to attend.

If you are not aware, I was elected as your new president at the AGM. I would like to thank and acknowledge the contribution that Lars Millar your former president, Tony Mort, Ian Robertson and Keith Garwood outgoing committee members have put into ensuring that the RSA has operated effectively and efficiently in recent years. Their contribution to welfare, commemorative and administrative matters is much appreciated and I wish them well for the future, and no doubt we will catch up on the odd Friday at the Club.

I would also like to take this opportunity to welcome your new executive. Norm Rosser (vice president), Martyn Robey, David Weston and Mike Collett. I look forward to working with you all and the Cornwall Trustees over the next year.

Currently the LHM RSA is meeting on the mezzanine floor in the Main Bar on Friday evenings. This change was primarily due to Covid 19 and the Club running on skeleton staffing moving into Level 1.

The Club has not fully recovered from Covid 19 lockdown, we are not sure what the new normal is. Given that approximately 10 to 12 LHM RSA members (current membership 244) are regular attendees at the Friday table. We will not be returning to the ANZAC Lounge until well into the New Year.

I believe that the LHM RSA has lowered its profile in the community in recent years. My aim going forward is to raise the profile of the LHM RSA in the community. I want to ensure that our welfare support is well publicised and links into the PWMC MAF. There is no requirement for Returned and Service personnel to be members of an RSA to gain access to Poppy welfare grants. If someone is in need we should be there to provide support.

The LHM RSA should focus on Welfare, Commemorative, Community and Comradeship activities. These should be conducted in our Club and in the wider community. We will be forging closer ties with our Cadet units and other like organisations. I don't expect this all to happen overnight, but your Executive will come up with a strategic plan in the New Year that will map out our objectives for the next couple of years.

The traditional 'Over 85s Christmas Luncheon,' organised by our Support Team, will now be a New Year's Luncheon, and you will all be contacted closer to the date for that function sometime in January, 2021.

There will be some interesting challengers ahead and our future is bright. I would like to wish you all a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year. If you are travelling be safe and if you are in the Club please introduce yourself to me.

### ***LHM RSA SUPPORT SERVICES***

The LHM RSA offers Support Services for all Returned and Service personnel (and their spouse/partner, or dependants). Assistance can be tailored to individual needs via grants or assistance with expenses for:

- Doctors' visits and prescriptions
- Dental
- Optical
- Audio impairment
- Specialist visits
- Funeral expenses (conditions apply)

As well as home and hospital visits, assistance with a variety of home help services may also be available.

### ***LHM RSA MENTAL HEALTH INITIATIVE***

The LHM RSA Executive and Trustees allocated funding to investigate the extent members and their families are suffering from mental illness and how the LHM RSA can be of assistance.

This is a new initiative within the LHM RSA but we need your help. We are not medical experts in this field, but are prepared to seek help and advice from those that are.

### ***CONTACT US***

If you require assistance from the LHM RSA Support Services Team for any contingencies other agencies cannot assist with, phone PWMC Reception on 0-4-568 5404, and ask for an appointment with the LHM RSA Support Services Team, and leave your contact details.

### ***ASSISTANCE FOR VETERANS FROM VETERANS' AFFAIRS NEW ZEALAND***

Veterans can get the following assistance from VANZ to help with quality of life issues, including:

- Lawns and gardens
- House cleaning
- Gutters cleaned
- Windows and external house washing
- Help may be available for internal windows
- Home modifications to assist entry and exit (e.g. ramps)
- Furniture modifications
- Attendant care (short term basis only)
- Adaptive clothing and footwear
- Personal alarms (in case of falls, etc.)
- Assistance with applications for funding of mobility scooters
- Travel allowances (conditions apply)
- Assistance with medical costs and hearing loss

The above is available to all who served prior to 1 April, 1974 and includes all operational deployments and routine service deployments. This also covers those who served after 1 April 1974 in various theatres since Vietnam.

For further information or clarification, contact your Veterans' Affairs Case Manager directly on 0800 483 8372, or e-mail [veterans@nzdf.mil.nz](mailto:veterans@nzdf.mil.nz)

If you are already dealing with VANZ and are having to wait a long time to see an appropriate professional, make contact with the LHM RSA Support Services and if we can help speed up the process with VANZ, we will.

